

JAMES: THE SHOE LEATHER GOSPEL
SOUTHSIDE BAPTIST CHURCH
WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY
“Faith and the Tongue”
James 3: 1-12
Dr. Josh Wilson

Foundational Truth: The tongue is the m_____ of the heart.

- Matthew 15: 10-19..What defiles us doesn't come from the outside going in....But inside coming out!
- Luke 6: 43-45...Out of the overflow of the heart, the mouth speaks
“What’s down in the well comes up in the bucket”

“The tongue is you in a unique way. It is a tattletell that tells on your heart and discloses the real person within.”
Dr. John MacArthur

- The misuse of the tongue is the easiest way to sin. There are no limits to what one can say, no built-in restraints or boundaries.
- In the Scriptures, the tongue is described in these way: Wicked. Deceitful. Perverse. Filthy. Corrupt. Flattering. Slandering. Gossiping. Blasphemous. Foolish. Boastful. Complaining. Cursing. Sensual. Vile.
“No wonder God put the tongue in a cage behind the teeth, walled in by the mouth!”
- A person’s speech is a reliable measure of his spiritual temperature, a monitor of the human condition.

Yet, when we are saved, we are t_____. And a mark of this work in our hearts and lives is a totally new set of vocabulary and a new self-control over what we choose to talk about and what we choose not to talk about. The Holy Spirit within us now empowers us to learn the d_____ of restraining our tongues.

The tongue in the book of James:

- Mentioned in every c_____ of the book
(1:19,1:26, 2:12, 3:5, 3:6, 3: 8, 4:11, 5:12)
- James personifies the tongue and mouth as representative of the depravity of the inner person. The tongue only produces what it is told to produce by the heart, where sin originates.
- The test of chapter 3: Our faith in Jesus is revealed as genuine or not by our speech, by what comes out of our mouths consistently in our lives.

James Points Out Four Key Actions our Tongue is Responsible For:

1. **The tongue has the potential to c_____.** (vv.1-2)
“Not many of you should become teachers, my fellow believers, because you know that we who teach will be judged more strictly.”

2. The tongue has the power to c_____ (vv.2-5a)

Picture #1: Bits in the mouths of horses

Picture #2: Small Rudder on a Ship

3. The tongue has the potential to c_____. (vv.5b-6)

III. Toothpaste Out of a Tube. Back inside the tube.

"Sticks and stones may break my bones, but words will never hurt me." – LIE!

- How many of us have struggled with forgiveness and bitterness over words spoken to us by someone many years ago that still hurt today?
- How many of us have spoken words to others that we would give anything to take back?

4. The tongue has the tendency to c_____. (vv.9-12)